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Letter dated 12 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on Sri Lanka issued on 9 June 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 160, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 12 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Sri Lanka issued on 9 June 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union strongly condemns the terrorist attack which killed the Minister for Industrial Development, C. V. Gooneratne, and 21 other innocent people and injured 60, near Colombo on 7 June. The European Union strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and extends its sympathy to the Government of Sri Lanka and the families of those who were killed and injured. The European Union fully supports the Government of Sri Lanka in preventing those committing terrorist crimes from deriving any benefit whatsoever from their acts.

The European Union reiterates its deep concern about the increasing conflict in Sri Lanka and the serious effect that it is having on the country and its people.

The European Union appeals to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to put an end to their indiscriminate acts of violence and agree to take part in negotiations with the Sri Lanka Government. The European Union urges the Sri Lanka Government and the LTTE to begin negotiations immediately with a view to securing a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the framework of Sri Lanka's territorial integrity and reminds them of their responsibility to ensure the safety of the civilian population in the conflict.

Furthermore, the European Union reiterates its support for Norway as mediator of the talks.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and Iceland and Liechtenstein, EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.